

The King Snake Tradition

Guarding Against Backbiting

Preamble

It's necessary that you have a means of protecting yourself from attacks made against you before they happen. You must know who will be against you for what you try to do. It requires that you understand how it is to demonstrate cultural competency.

My early years saw that I pursued a career as a ski instructor which lasted until the age of twenty two. At which point I chose a Confucianist way of life and started designs of developing my own martial arts style. I'd had a few scrapes with the law which had set me back. And gave the opportunity to push through some adversity.

Even before this, I'd been hanging out with ruffians and found a means that those I associate with not take issue with how I chose to live. They liked that I was a blue collar worker and liked that I got in a little trouble here and there. Being tough went a long way for how I guarded against backbiting.

The one thing you can do to have people be against you is to do something which is a lot better than others who work hard and get less credit. It's necessary that you protect yourself in such a manner that you work hard and demonstrate the cultural competency to have people on your side.

You might have to use deception to protect yourself knowing that to guard against backbiting you'll have to strike a balance between working hard not, assuming, your efforts are better than other people's. It's offensive to act like what you've done is much better. But if it's not your best effort that too is offensive.

One simple strategy is to not try to get too much credit for your work. There are working class mothers who work three jobs to provide for their children and there are people who spend twelve hours or more a day working on their art. Be humble. And demonstrate the cultural competency to go along with a means of protecting yourself like that of your peers. There should be wisdom and intelligence to the manner in which you protect yourself if there are others who do so in a similar manner. Follow suit and have what you are doing meet a similar standard as what they do.

The Discordant

I identified The Discordant in society and decided that this would be my ilk and people I aspired to be like. Discordants are working class creatives. I try to aspire to have my art meet the same standards as those among working class creatives whom I associate with. And I try to protect myself in such a manner as they do and becomes how I guard against backbiting.

In the first edition to The King Snake Tradition Handbook, I wrote about a fictional society which is meant to promote an ideal. It's also meant to be the basis for a way of life—how I may approach the forging of mind and body—and aspire to a similar ideal as my friends.

This way of life requires times of homelessness and isolation and it requires living off a modest means. It was developed during a time that I was part of a street artist community in which we had an underground artist hostel and commune. This becomes the basis for my approach to be a good martial arts scholar and manner to protect myself.

Lifestyle Anarchist

The King Snake Tradition was featured in 5th Estate and is a means which I may be a credible Lifestyle Anarchist and Martial Arts Scholar.

My early years saw that I was incarcerated several times which proved to be a setback but also was a manner which I'd set forth to demonstrate cultural competency to be working class. Not assuming I

deserved a much better handshake than those I fraternized with.

Having faced the setbacks I've had to work hard to develop myself in such a manner where I'm a haiku poet, ink painter, martial arts scholar, anarchist, and survivor. It became necessary that I undo the mistakes of my earlier years while I was in my thirties by aspiring to be a working class creative.

I had a lot of projects which provided extracurricular activities for how I developed myself as a martial arts scholar. And became a manner in which I developed my leadership. I participated in psych survivor advocacy, aspiring, to be a more political artist. Some of my projects included curating art shows and engaging in grass roots political organizing as well as doing writer's workshops and writing my first book—a full length collection of poetry.

These constituted the founding years of The King Snake Tradition and became the means that I begin to improve my reputation. It was necessary. And allowed that I gain in my constitution well enough to have a lifestyle which would result in my being a credible martial arts scholar, anarchist, and psych survivor with a body of work to show for it.

Reputation

To be in good standing in your community is necessary to how you protect yourself. It's necessary to how you navigate the world we live in.

However, it's a little counter intuitive as a manner in which we earn for ourselves a reputation which will be protective. It's to be quiet about the goings on of your life and to be private about your affairs. You must have a creative outlet that you aspire to have work which you do for yourself but not earn more credit than is necessary. Don't try to be famous.

Psych survivor advocacy provided a good means for me to improve my reputation which allowed that I take on leadership responsibilities. I became an advocate for mad pride and did grass roots political organizing with Vermont Psychiatric Survivors.

My platform as a psych survivor advocate became, secondary, to the reputation I would try to earn for The King Snake Tradition. It was a tool for public relations, leadership development, and creating community for my program.

For reputation, I recommend focusing on creating community and a following for your creative work and focusing on being in good standing with this group of people. These will be your supporters. They will represent a larger cross section of society who supports the work which people do of similar interest to your own.

If you focus on building a reputation with your followers you will be able to develop your reputation without too much promotion.

Risk Mitigation

If you have a creative outlet with a group of people who support what you are doing this will require that you spend at least some money on your work. This involves risk. And managing the risks of investing in what you're able to do will improve your reputation.

If you invest in something you want to do it will likely be in the view of the public and incur risk. If it does not work out—you will damage your own reputation—and be subject to scrutiny. To manage risks it's important to see if others are interested in investing in what you are doing. It's important that you see what it is that you do that others will get behind.

Vermont Psychiatric Survivors invested money into my psych survivor advocacy with grant money to organize political demonstrations. Otherwise, I allocated a small amount of funding for printing and promoting my martial arts books. My idea is to have The King Snake Tradition Handbook as my most important book. It did not require going into debt and was scaled to the size of a project I was accustomed to taking on.

Having taken on leadership responsibilities in mad pride—I thought to move on—and develop my own style as a martial artist. It was something I always wanted to do. Scaling the project to have a creative

outlet which I would be able to tackle and be effective was necessary to my risk mitigation.

Conclusion

Choosing to be an anarchist has its risks and manner in which you must have an ability to protect yourself. As does having work you do which is in view of the public. Guarding against backbiting will require that you have a means of protection and earning yourself a good reputation.

This will require managing the risks of your venture—being responsible—and working hard to have what you do meet the standards of those who you appeal to. People may be against you and for this reason you might choose to be somewhat private about your affairs. Only, look to gain a following among those who've taken an interest in what you do. And demonstrate the cultural competency to know how you may have their communities support your efforts.

My efforts to develop a martial arts style earned support from a cross section of communities including the anarchist community and survivor community. Some martial artists have taken an interest in my work and that shows that it's a good style, enough, to earn a reputation among those who actually understand martial arts.

My work is not over. I've just begun, in fact, to venture out to be a scholar of the martial arts and in a manner which is alternatively minded. It will be a test of my resolve and discipline. To take an idea which I had and create a following to my creative work and manage the risks involved in doing something which is in view of the public.

To live and create and find a means to do so without putting yourself in harms way, requires, that you understand how it's to guard against backbiting.